

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 GAC-01 /123 R

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R 172149 Z MAY 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094880

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, SO

SUBJECT: ETHIOPIAN- SOMALI RELATIONS

REF: STATE 91146

1. JUST PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR CONSULTATION, AMBASSADOR ADDOU REQUESTED MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM MAY 16 TO DISCUSS EMPEROR' S VISIT.

2. NEWSOM STATED VISIT MAINLY CONCERNED WITH U. S.- ETHIOPIAN BILATERAL AFFAIRS, BUT NOTED SOMALI- ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS ACTIVELY DISCUSSED ALSO. NEWSOM SAID ETHIOPIAN APPREHENSIONS VIS- A- VIS SOMALIS MUCH GREATER THAN DURING PREVIOUS VISITS AND EMPEROR APPEARED DEEPLY TROUBLED BY RECENT SOVIET MILITARY DELIVERIES TO SOMALIA. HE ADDED
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HIS IMPRESSION THAT HAILE SELASSIE WAS NOW PARTICULARLY AWARE OF OWN MORTALITY AND DISAPPOINTED OVER INABILITY TO BRING ABOUT PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF LONGSTANDING SOMALI ISSUE. EMPEROR COMPLAINED THAT BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF PROBLEM NEVER PROGRESSED BECAUSE SOMALIS ALWAYS BEGAN BY CITING TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO OGADEN WHICH ARE UNACCEPTABLE TO ETHIOPIA.

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3. ASSISTANT SECRETARY THEN BRIEFED ADDOU ON DISCUSSIONS WITH EMPEROR WHICH CONCERNED SOMALIA. U. S., HE SAID, WILLING MEET HIM DURING OAU CELEBRATIONS. HE STATED ADDOU COULD REASSURE GENERAL THAT ALTHOUGH U. S. HAD GOOD, CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, WE SEEK DETENTE IN THE HORN. ACCORDINGLY, U. S. HAD REPEATED SIAD' S ASSURANCES GIVEN REFTEL AND ADDED THAT U. S. BELIEVES SOMALIA NOT PREPARING MILITARY INVASION. NEWSOM ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT OUR STATEMENTS HAD LITTLE EFFECT ON DEEP ETHIOPIAN FEAR OF SOVIET PRESENCE AND ARMS BUILD- UP IN SOMALIA.

4. ADDOU THANKED NEWSOM FOR U. S. EFFORTS AND FIRMLY DENIED EXISTENCE OF SOVIET BASES IN SOMALIA. AMBASSADOR ADDED THAT DURING CONSULTATIONS HE PLANNED TO SUGGEST THAT U. S. AND SOVIET SHIPS BE TREATED EQUALLY IN SOMALI PORTS TO PROVE SOMALI NON- ALIGNMENT AND NON- EXISTENCE OF SOVIET BASES. HE EMPHASIZED SOMALIA WOULD NEVER GIVE UP SOVEREIGNTY BY ALLOWING FOREIGN BASES.

5. IN CLOSING, NEWSOM SUGGESTED SEVERAL STEPS SOMALIA MIGHT TAKE TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE WITH ETHIOPIA IN FUTURE. HE SUGGESTED SOMALIA BEGIN ANY FUTURE DISCUSSIONS WITH NON- TERRITORIAL ISSUES (CREATION OF JOINT BORDER COMMISSION, POSSIBLE PERMISSION FOR SOMALI OVERFLIGHTS OF OGADEN, POSSIBILITY OF CHINESE BUILDING NORTH-SOUTH ROAD THROUGH OGADEN, ETC.). HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT, GIVEN EMPEROR' S GREAT CONCERN OVER LIBYAN EFFORTS TO REMOVE OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS, SIAD MIGHT WISH TO INFORM EMPEROR OF SOMALIA' S SUPPORT FOR PRESENT OAU SITE. RUSH

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